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It is shocking to learn that all the known phosphate deposits in the world will last at best only 250 years at the present rate of consumption; that America now furnishes two-thirds of the world's supply and sells half of it to foreign lands; while it would require our entire production of phosphates upon our own soil to give back to the soil what our corn crop alone takes from it.

The author is to be congratulated on producing a strong book in a very vital field. Its influence should be constructive in a high degree.

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J. PAUL GOODE

*Epitome of the Geology of New South Wales.* By E. F. PITTMAN.

Circular No. 9. Sydney: Mining and Geological Museum, 1909. Pp. 9, with geologic map.

This little pamphlet giving in a very brief, condensed form the principal features of the geology of this large Australian province has just come to the reviewer's attention. Those who frequently have occasion to familiarize themselves with the salient points in the geology of various portions of other continents often have longed for a series of just such outlines as this. To pick the desired information from separate volumes of a long array of standard geologic reports is a tedious and time-consuming task. A good map and the essential facts of a far-away country brought together and made available for ready use is a boon to every geologist who may have occasion to refer to that region. Now that geological studies are world-wide it is to be hoped that other countries and provinces will follow the example of New South Wales.

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R. T. C.

*Life and Letters of Josiah Dwight Whitney.* By EDWIN TENNEY

BREWSTER. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909. Pp. 411, 18 illustrations.

In this biography the curtain is drawn aside and the reader is introduced intimately to one of the most conspicuous of the pioneers of American geology. When Whitney commenced his field work as an assistant on the first geological survey of New Hampshire in 1839, almost the whole of the United States was geologically an unknown land. The story of Whitney's life as it is unfolded in this book carries with it much of the history of several of the early surveys in which he took a leading part. These are the survey of the Lake Superior region (1847-50) which turned him from chemistry, toward which he had been preparing himself, to geology, and the Iowa State Survey, to which he was appointed in 1855 and which brought him